

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed July 23, 2004. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants amend Claims 1, 3, 6, 13, 17-19, 25-26, 28-29, 37, 39, 42, 45, 47-50, 54, 57, and 61. Applicants cancel Claims 9, 16, 36, 44, 46, and 60 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants previously canceled Claims 8, 20, and 35 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of Claims 61-64. Applicants also note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 9, 11, 16-19, 36, 38, 42, 44, 46-53, and 60 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants amend Claims 1, 13, 28, 39, 45, and 57 to include elements of Claims 9, 16, 36, 44, 46, and 60, respectively, thereby placing these claims in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's indication.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to Claims 1, 3, 13, 26, 28-29, 39, 45-46, and 60-61 for various informalities and requests correction. Applicants amend Claims 1, 3, 13, 26, 28-29, 39, 45, and 60-61 to address the Examiner's concerns, with the exception of the Examiner's request that Applicants amend the phrase "means for transferring" in Claim 1 to read "means for transferring that transfers". Applicants respectfully submit that the current wording of this phrase is grammatically correct and similar in structure to other claims of the Application. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the requested change is unnecessary. If the Examiner disagrees, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner explain the basis for the Examiner's objection.

Additionally, Applicants cancel Claims 46 and 60 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants wish to note that, with respect to all amendments and cancellations herein, Applicants reserve the right to pursue broader subject matter than that presently claimed through the filing of continuations and/or other related applications.

Section 112 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 6, 25-27, and 54-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of Claims 6 and 54 on antecedent basis grounds, Applicants amend Claims 6 and 54 to address the Examiner's concerns. Applicants wish to note that these amendments are intended merely to correct an unintentional, typographical error and do not alter the scope of the claimed subject matter.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of Claims 25-27 and the Examiner's additional rejections of Claims 54-56, Applicants respectfully assert that the fact Applicants do not limit Claim 25 or Claim 54 with respect to, as the Examiner states, the "parties/stations [with which] the first station is in the conference call" does not make either claim indefinite. Applicants respectfully note that the "[a]pplicants may use functional language, alternative expressions, negative limitations, or any style of expression or format of claim which makes clear the boundaries of the subject matter for which protection is sought." MPEP § 2173.01. Furthermore, Applicants also respectfully note that:

[b]readth of a claim is not to be equated with indefiniteness. If the scope of the subject matter embraced by the claims is clear, and if applicants have not otherwise indicated that they intend the invention to be of a scope different from that defined in the claims, then the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

MPEP § 2173.04 (citation omitted).

Nothing in the specification or the surrounding language of Claim 25 or Claim 54 necessitates further limiting the relevant claim element in either claim. Claims 25 and 54 properly leave open the possibility that the "first station" may be in the conference call with one or more of the second station, the third station, and/or other unidentified stations. Thus, the scope of each claim is clear, and Claims 25 and 54 are thus allowable. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of amended Claims 25 and 54, and their respective dependents.

Section 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 13-14 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,440,624 issued to Schoof, II ("*Schoof*"). Applicants amend Claim 13 to include elements of Claim 16, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 13 is thus allowable in accordance with the Examiner's indication. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 13 and its dependents.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-2, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,841,976 issued to Tai et al. ("*Tai*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,577,622 issued to Schuster et al. ("*Schuster*"). Applicants amend Claim 1 to include elements of Claim 9, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 is thus allowable in accordance with the Examiner's indication. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 1 and its dependents.

The Examiner rejects Claims 4-5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tai* in view of *Schuster* and *Schoof*. Claims 4-5 and 7 depend from Claim 1 which has been shown above to be allowable. Claims 4-5 and 7 are thus allowable for at least these reasons. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 4-5 and 7.

The Examiner rejects Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schoof* in view of *Zwick*. Claim 15 depends from Claim 13 which has been shown above to be allowable. Claim 15 is thus allowable for at least this reason. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 15.

The Examiner rejects Claims 28, 30-34, 37, 39, 40-41, 43, and 57-59 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tai* in view of *Schuster* in view of *Schoof*. Applicants amend Claims 28, 39, and 57 to include elements of Claims 36, 44, and 60, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 28, 39, and 57 are thus allowable in accordance with the Examiner's indication. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 28, 39, and 57, and their respective dependents.

The Examiner rejects Claims 3 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tia* in view of *Schuster* and U.S. Patent No. 5,701,340 issued to Zwick ("*Zwick*"). Claims 3 and 29 depend from Claims 1 and 28, respectively, which have both been shown above to be allowable. Claims 3 and 29 are thus allowable for at least these reasons. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 3 and 29.

The Examiner also rejects Claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tai* in view of *Schuster*, *Schoof*, and *Zwick*. Claim 29 depends from Claim 28, which

has been shown above to be allowable. Claim 29 is thus allowable for at least this reason. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 29.

The Examiner rejects Claim 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schoof*. Applicants amend Claim 45 to include elements of Claim 46, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 45 is thus allowable in accordance with the Examiner's indication. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 45 and its dependents.

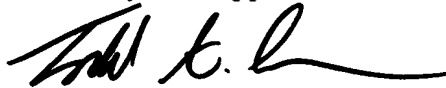
Conclusions

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

No fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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